



To: More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program Contacts

Through: John Pruette, Executive Director, NC Office of School Readiness

From: Carolyn Sexton, Health Check / NC Health Choice Outreach Consultant,
DPH/Children & Youth Branch

Ania Boer, HC/NCHC and Medical Home Campaign Coordinator,
NC Healthy Start Foundation

Re: Availability of Free Materials for Assuring Access to Health Insurance and a Medical Home for Children

Date: August 15, 2008

Enclosed in this mailing you will find the Fall 2008 NC Healthy Start Foundation Catalog and Order Form. Our goal is to help you order free materials to support your efforts to meet the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program's requirement on access to health insurance and medical home. Health Check / NC Health Choice Child Health Insurance Fact Sheets are updated every April 1st to reflect new income guidelines so if you have old materials, please recycle them. The current Fact Sheet is attached.

The More at Four Guidelines and Requirements for SFY 2008-09 includes the following:

Section 2 D. Access to Health Insurance and Medical Home

Local programs should work with the local More at Four Committee and other community health care resources (e.g., Child Care Health Consultants or Health Check Coordinators) to assist families in securing health insurance and a medical home (primary health care provider) for their child.

At a minimum, programs will give families information about the Health Check and NC Health Choice health insurance programs and about the importance of a medical home. The More at Four Contractor will ensure that this information is available for all families of children served by More at Four. The information may be distributed: 1) at a county-wide event; 2) at the site level; and/or 3) directly to families. In addition, programs may also choose to give families a list of local primary health care providers.

We know you are committed to meeting the needs of the children you serve in the More at Four classrooms in your community. That is why we are asking you to help us get the word out to families regarding the availability of free or low-cost health insurance for North Carolina children. For families that qualify, Health Check (Medicaid for Children) and NC Health Choice provide comprehensive health insurance coverage. (See Health Check / NC Health Choice Fact Sheet attached for the list of benefits). Whether children qualify for Health Check or NC Health Choice is dependent upon the age of the child, family income and family size. Even children from a family of four whose total household income is approximately \$42,400 per year may qualify. And it is easy to apply. There is one application form for both programs and it can be mailed to the local department of social services. For further information and to obtain an application form, the family can call the NC Family Health Resource Line at 1-800-367-2229 or they can go online to our Web site at www.NCHealthyStart.org (choose "For the Public" and "Child Health Insurance"). The family can also go by the local department of social services and apply in person.

Then once families are insured, it is important that they establish a medical home for their children. A medical home is a doctor's office, a community clinic or a local health department where the staff knows the child and the child's health history. It is the one place they can turn to address all of their child's health care needs. Access to a medical home helps assure that children are healthy and ready to learn.

The simplest way to order materials is online at www.nchealthystart.org. Just click on "Order". If you prefer ordering by fax or by mail, an Order Form is enclosed. If your sites do not already have Health Check / NC Health Choice Posters (in English and Spanish) on display, we encourage you to place an order for the number of posters you would like to have. All materials are available for free and in bulk. As the More at Four Contract Agency, we would appreciate it if you could coordinate orders for your sites.

Naturally, we would prefer that materials be distributed to families of uninsured children, but if this feels awkward in the classroom setting you may distribute the materials to all of the families you serve. Questions? Feel free to call the NC Family Health Resource Line at 1-800-367-2229 or go to www.NCHealthyStart.org for further information. (See "Resources" sheet attached).

Thank you for the important work you are doing in your communities and for sharing information about these programs.

Attachments:

- "Resources" Sheet
- "Health Check / NC Health Choice Fact Sheet"
- "The Right Call Every Time: Your Medical Home" Brochure

Materials Included:

- North Carolina Healthy Start Foundation Catalog and Order Form

The **North Carolina Healthy Start Foundation**, a nonprofit organization established in 1990, conducts ongoing public education campaigns, advises state and local policy-makers, and provides technical assistance and professional training focused on reducing infant death and illness and improving the health of women and young children.

RESOURCES

Access to Health Insurance and Medical Home for Children in More at Four Pre-K Classrooms

NC Family Health Resource Line

1-800-367-2229, Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm
Services in English and Spanish

- Provides information, referral and advocacy services on a variety of family health issues
- Educates about the state's child health insurance programs
- Mails Health Check / NC Health Choice print materials & application forms to families
- Helps families locate a medical home for their children
- Responds to questions from families and professionals

NC Healthy Start Foundation

www.NCHealthyStart.org

- Conducts public health education campaigns including the Health Check / NC Health Choice and Medical Home Campaigns
- Designs and distributes print materials in English and Spanish free of charge and in bulk
- Develops print and electronic media for TV, radio, newspapers
- Maintains a Web site with Health Check / NC Health Choice and Medical Home information "for the public", "for professionals" and "en español"

NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center

www.healthychildcarenc.org

1-800-367-2229

- Child Care Health Consultants provide information, resources and referrals. Go to <http://www.healthychildcarenc.org/consultants/> for an online directory of local staff.

Children with Special Health Care Needs Help Line

1-800-737-3028

For professionals and families who have children with special health care needs:

- Educates about Health Check / Health Choice, particularly the insurance benefits
- Provides information and referrals to other state and local resources
- Links to providers / specialists
- Helps families problem solve

Health Check Program

- Health Check Coordinators help families enroll children in Health Check / NC Health Choice and link them to a medical home. Go to <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/ca/hcc.pdf> for an online directory of local staff.